



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 24, 2005

**JOIN LEADING WORLD EXPERTS TO EXPLORE BOTH THE  
POLITICS AND PROMISE OF STEM CELL RESEARCH**

***STAFF BRIEFING, Thursday, March 3, 2005***

Dear Colleague:

On March 3, 2005, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), in collaboration with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), will host a symposium to explore research advances and policy issues related to stem-cell research. The confirmed speakers are conducting some of the most exciting research in this field and will guide a discussion about the current state of stem-cell research in academic and industrial laboratories in the United States and abroad. We encourage your staff to attend.

**Some of the issues that the speakers will address:**

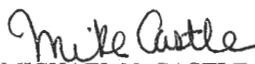
- The impact of the Proposition 71 decision in California and how it affects stem cell research initiatives in other states.
- The state of global stem cell research programs. Is the United States really falling behind?
- How are researchers in the United States dealing with the current constraints regarding use of federal grant money for research only on approved stem cell lines?
- What is keeping big pharmaceutical companies away from stem cell research?
- What is the outlook for young researchers?
- What are researchers learning about using stem cells to model rare diseases and what is the current thinking about the therapeutic potential of adult stem cells?


**Confirmed speakers:**

- Nissim Benvenisty, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- M. William Lensch, Children's Hospital, Boston; Harvard Medical School
- Sean Morrison, Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Michigan Medical School
- Irving Weissman, Stanford University School of Medicine
- Leonard Zon, Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Children's Hospital, Boston; Harvard Medical School

Please join us for this session on March 3 from **9 AM to noon in the Russell Senate Building, Room 428A**. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email to [biotech@csis.org](mailto:biotech@csis.org) with your full contact information. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Wenk in Rep. Castle's office (5-4165) or Meghan Taira in Rep. DeGette's office (5-4431).

Sincerely,

  
MICHAEL N. CASTLE  
Member of Congress

  
DIANA DeGETTE  
Member of Congress